MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

The Prevention of corruption bill, 1987

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha signed by the Secretary General of the Lok Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Prevention of Corruption Bill, 1987, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 7th May, 1987."

Sir, I lay the Bill on the Table.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to inform the hon. Members that I have received a letter from Shri K. L. N. Prasad to the effect that he will have to stay for some more time in the U.S.A. for observation and recovery. He has accordingly requested for grant of leave of absence from all the sittings of the Rajya Sabha during the current Session. Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Mr. Prasad?

(No. hon. Member dissented)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Permission to remain absent is granted. Now before I take up the call attention, I would like to make one suggestion with your approval. We should like to finish this call attention by 1 O'clock and I would request all the Members to take not more than five or six minutes

SHRI ALADI ARUNA, *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM (Tamil Nadu) : We can continue in the lunch hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. I am at your hands. This was a suggestion made to me by a number of Opposition Members because if the Minister replies after 5 O'Clock, you won't get the necessary coverage in the papers. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, it is an important issue. Where is the Cabinet Minister? It is belittling the issue. Where is the External Affairs Minister?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. Any Minister can represent. You cannot insist on the Cabinet Minister being here. Any Minister in the Ministry is entitled to be here.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM : We can continue without lunch break.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You see we have to adjourn by 1 O'Clock because today is a Friday. I think the concensus is in favour of finishing it at 1 O' Clock.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation in Sri Lanka

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the situation in Sri Lanka.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : Sir, it was only a few days ago that the House had a detailed discussion on Sri Lanka during the discussion on the working of the Ministry of External Affairs. Since then, unfortunately, situation in Sri Lanka has continued to deteriorates. Continued resort to violence has led to mounting civilian casualties. Bitterness and suspicion between the two sides has continued to grow and prospects for a negotiated settlement look increasingly less bright

One cannot look at recent events in isolation without seeing them in the perspective of past developments. Even if the history of Tamil grievances over several decades and the more recent events starting with the anti—

[Shri K. Natwar Singh]

Tamil riots of July 83 are kept aside, one has to see the events of the last few days at least against the backdrop of actions since the beginning of the year. In its statement issued four days ago, the Sri Lankan Government have sought to justify these actions in terms of some unilateral administrative steps taken by the LTTE in the Jaffna peninsula. These actions were admittedly misguided. But it is difficult to appreciate how the misguided actions by a few can justify the imposition of harsh economic and communication blockade and large scale military action in the Eastern and Northern Provinces lasting several months and causing widespread suffering, death and destruction to innocent civilians. It has been said that the economic blockade was only aimed at the militants and applicable only to fuel supplies, but the fact is that it has affected the availability of foodstuffs and medicines and has disrupted normal life and caused hardship to civilians throughout Jaffna. The military action in the Eastern and Northern Provinces has resulted in hundreds of civilian deaths. What is most regrettable is that these actions came at a time when there was a chance of making some progress towards a negotiated settlement on the basis of the Decembr 19 proposals. Such actions and such widespread suffering caused to civilians produce their own inevitable reactions in India.

It is against this background that the developments since April 17 mark a particularly tragic turn of events. We have declared in this House that we consider all human life as sacrosanct. That was why we had condemned the incidents of April 17 in Trincomalee district and the explosion on April 21 in Colombo as strongly as we had condemned the massacres of Tamil civilians in earlier army actions. Nor do the incidents in Trincomalee and Colombo condone the aerial strafing and shelling of civilians in Jaffna in subsequent days.

We have repeatedly stated our firm conviction that this is a political problem and only a political settlement offers a long-term solution. We must therefore condemn all acts of violence. Whoever perpetrates such violence and massacres, whether the State or any group—Tamil or Sinhala —must stand condemned. Such acts only add to the toll of human deaths and suffering and make a final settlement more difficult.

In this connection, Government is particularly concerned about recent intemperate statements coupled with expressions of determination to pursue a military solution that have emanated from Sri Lanka. It is understood that the Sri Lanka Government has now ordered the closing down of the Jaffna Hospital, which has already been the target of shelling on several occasions. This will add further to the suffering of the Tamil people in Jaffna. It is also a pointer that the Government of Sri Lanka is getting ready to embark on an action which is bound to lead to large scale civilian deaths and mass destruction. We hope better sense will prevail.

We would once again urge both sides to this tragic dispute to give up the path of violence and to work for a peaceful solution. We would stress that a solution to this problem cannot be found through military means. Any victories through violence will be shortlived and illusory. A solution to this problem and the longterm welfare of Sri Lanka lies at the end of the path of negotiations, in a negotiated political settlement which meets the legitmate aspirations of the Tamil minority within the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka. We hope all parties to this dispute will realize this before it is too late.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am terribly disappointed with the statement of the Government It shows the spineless cowardice

approach of this Government to the problem of Sri Lankan Tamils. The Minister in the statement says that he hopes better sense will prevail. I am trying to say that you are expecting humanitarian attitude from a man-eater.

Sir, today the hearts of 3.5 million Tamils in Sri Lanka are bleeding. Sir, for nearly three months Jaffna, the northern and eastern provinces have become concentration camps. But I am afraid, from today onwards it is going to become a graveyard of Tamils because, according to reliabe information, the Government of Sri Lanka is going to launch a full-scale attack on Tamils from today onwards. For that purpose they have ordered to close the Jaffna General Hospital, the biggest hospital where 2,400 patients at a time could get treatment.

Sir, in the statement, the Minister says about political solution through negotiation. Sir, on the floor of the Sri Lankan Parliament last week, the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Premadasa, has categorically stated that whoever advises political solution or asks for a political solution is the biggest enemy of Sri Lanka. Is it not a slap on your face? Sir, a tiny country is posing a challenge to India. Sir, when I raised this question the other day, Mr. Tiwari said that we need not take into account the statement of Mr. Premadasa, but we should rely on the statement of Mr. Jayewardene. But two days back Sir, the very same Mr. Jayewardene stated that India is following a Hitlerian path. Sir, Mr. Jayewardene says that India is following a Hitlerian path. Again, I am trying to say that this Government deserves such a remark from that monster.

Today Sir, according to information, thousands of Tamils are evacuating their houses, business establishments and offices within the town precincts of Jaffna. The mass exodus began yesterday and was continuing today following the Sri Lankan Government's order to close the Jaffna General Hospital from May 8. While the Tamil civilians were fleeing the city centre, the Sri Lankan Air Force helicopter-gunships attacked civilian targets with rockets causing panic among the vacating population. The situation was compounded when troops attacked to Jaffna. For garrison shelled the town with mortar and artillery fire. The casualty figures were not known.

Sir, they have no more tears to shed. The tears have almost dried up. What are you going to do? Have you got any policy? And the Sri Lankan Government has openly sought the help from Pakistan. They have sought the help of Pakistan combat pilots. They have sought their assistance. Already they have got the Pakistani pilots to train their own pilots. But they have now openly declared that 'we are going to do it'. And Pakistan says, 'we are grateful, we are thankful to Sri Lanka'. And this Government is boasting that it is the architect of SAARC. Two members of the SAARC joined together to annihilate and totally eliminate the whole Tamil ethnic race. Is it because the victims happen to belong to an ethnic Tamil race? Sir, if the same thing had happened to any other ethnic group of North India, things would have been different, and Delhi would have reacted. It is not my statement. This statement was made not by a DMK man, not by a Telugu Desam man. This was made by the former Foreign Secretary of India, Mr. A. P. Venkateswaran. Sir I charge this Government. You have given licence to Mr. Jayewardene because Mr. Rajiv Gandhi said that we will not interfere in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka we will not support Eelam. But Sir, this is not an internal matter; it is a universal matter of human righs. When genocide is taking place in Sri Lanka it is not an internal matter of Sri Lanka. I would like to know

[Shri V. Gopalsamy]

from the hon. Minister whether you are going to follow this vacillating mediator role or you are going to support the Tamils, because you have equated the aggerssor and the victims. You have put an equal footing the Tamils as well as the Sri Lankan Sinhalese thugs, and you are saying they have taken up arms. For thirty long years they have waited; they suffered plunder persecutions and attack. In this Parliament, there was a hue and cry when some women were subjected to virginity test in London. In Sri Lanka, for years together women were killed and raped and today the whole race is facing total annihilation, and you have done nothing. You have not taken any steps, because you say that you will not interfere and Jayewardene knows that you will not take any action.

You may say many things; you may express your concern or sympathy. But this expression of sympathy and concern will not stop killings. Will this Government lodge a protest and express in no uncertain terms to the Sri Lankan Government that India will not be an idle spectator? Will you consider all these aspects? Will the Government come forward with a statement? Unless this Government comes forward with a statement, nothing will stop killings there. The situation is very grave, because they have sent SOS; Sri Lanka Tamils have sent SOS asking for ships, because they want to come to India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will give two more minutes.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sri Lankan Government has decided for the final operation codenamed 'Operation Knockout' This is my information. Are you aware of it? Are you aware of this final knockout operation against Tamils, for total extermination of Tamils? Are you going to witness the holocaust? Are you going to witness the massacre? So this Operation Knockout should be terminated, otherwise you will be made to pass a condolence resolution I do not find words to describe or to express my agony, because I cannot take more time. I do not want to take more time. My speeches will not stop the killings, unless the Government takes some action, some concrete action. But you are not going to do that. All these years, you have been witnessing it; you have been a spectator. The Tamils will not forgive you. You have given licence I should say. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi after he took the reins of power gave a licence to Jayewardene to kill Tamils because he said he will not interfere in the internal matters of Sri Lanka and you are preaching political solution. A country which is inimical to India, Pakistan, is openly supporting them and sending their combat pilots to kill Tamils. And Israel which is inimical to India has joined hands with Paikstan. Israel and Pakistan have joined together in Srilanka to kill the Tamils. What for you are having your armed forces? What for you are having your Navy? When I say this, it may not be tolerated by some people. But my question is, what for you are having all these things? When Pakistan, Israel and China, countries which are inimical to India are sending their troops gun-boats, pilots, warplanes etc. to kill the Tamils there here you are sitting like a lame duck. Your eyes have become blind. Your ears have become deaf. As far as the Tamils are concerned, you have no heart.

Sir, before the dusk falls today the Government should come out with a statement This is going to be saddest day for the Tamils in Sri Lanka. The Jaffna hopital is going to be closed by this evening. Then, there will be a total attack because Jayewardene has declared that there will be a total war. Jayewardene says that he is going to recapture Jaffna. What does it mean? With 30,000 soldiers he was not able to penetrate the area because the Tamils are united, to get justice. They want to live in honour and peace. They want to live in dignity and honour. That is why they are supporting the Tamil militants. Now, Jayewardene says that they are going to recapture jaffna. Therefore before the dusk falls today, the Government should issue a statement The statement which has been

made here now is an empty statement. Even the message sent by you from here was thrown into the dustbin by Jayewardene. After that, the Sri Lankan Government said that the Indian Government is following a Hitlerian path. I demand that the Government should come out with a statement that they will consider all options. Unless you stop the killings, this Operation Konkout will exterminate and annihilate the Tamils, Sir, blood is flowing in the streets of Jaffna. (*Time ... ...*) Sir, I will take just ... I would like to know from ... Government what they are going to do. You have no policy at all. Are you aware of this operation? Mr. Minister, you should come out with a statement. Not only a statement. I request you to take action, if necessary, military action to protect the rights and lives of the Tamils. Otherwise, not only the 3.5 million Tamils in Sri Lanka but the 50 million Tamils in Tamil Nadu and the Tamils all over the world will not forgive this Government for it blunder.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the situation in Sri Lanka today is very grave and it is inexorably drifting towards a precipice. The situation on the ground if you will allow me to say, is nothing short of a civil war. The State of Sri Lanka has been waging a series of strikes from the air and other sources on the civilian population in the Northern and Eastern parts of Sri Lanka. These strikes are prolonged; not only prolonged, but orchestrated. These lead one to believe that the Sri Lankan Government considers the North and the East sectors of Sri Lanka,—which happen to be the traditional home of the Tamils—as enemy territory. All these actions taken by the Government of Sri Lanka follow from that very perception and the Sri Lankan Government also does not conceal this. They speak of a military solution to the problem. Mention has been made here of the intemperate statements made on the floor of the Sri Lankan Parliament. I would just quote the statement made by the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. He said 'We cannot betray our people because we want friendship with India'. Therefore, the extent to which they value their friendship with India is very clear. Sir, a greater danger is in the offing. It emanates from the attempt of the Government of Sri Lanka, from the efforts of internationalising this ethnic crisis by involving foreign and external forces. It has been mentioned by my esteemed colleague, Shri Gopalsamy, that the Government of Sri Lanka has approached the Government of Pakistan to lend the services of their air forces to carry out the sorties. It is also known to the world and to this Government of our country that the Israeli Mossad is already operating there. It is also felt that the United States of America is in the midst. It cannot be denied. Sir, that the axis of USA Pakistan and Israel is in the offing and this axis is not only the concern of several million Tamils in Sri Lanka but it poses great threat to India's security. India's sovereignity and we cannot afford to ignore these developments are country.

Sir, I quite appreciate the mediatory role of the Government of India. But what is the role? Has it been really a mediatory role. Sir, I am constrained to say that it has been an approach of equating aggressor and the victims, equating the State violence and the resistance of the Tamil people who have been opprssed for generations together, who have been denied the elementary human rights.

Sir, since you have said that I will not get much time, let us also understand what are the implications of the mediatory role? Only in November last you have said that the Government will cease their mediatory role and they have given four conditions, asking the Government of Sri Lanka to fulfil these conditions. These conditions are known to the Government. It is not necessary for me to repeat them. These are known to you and these were communicated through our representative in Sri Lanka. And what is the development in that respect? Mr. Dinesh Singh had been to Colombo as a special envoy of our Prime Minister and I am *told or* it is understood that Mr. Jayewardene reiterated and assured Mr. Singh that the

[Shri Chitta Basu]

economic blockade would be lifted and the military operations halted. But what is happening today? It has not been halted, economic blockade has not been lifted. On the contrary new offensives have been launched. And if that is correct, today is a very bad day for the Tamils of Sri Lanka.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think you have finished.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Only two minutes before I formulate my question. Mr. Jayewardene does ont believe in a peaceful solution negotiated solution. I would have been glad had I been permitted to quote from what he has said with regard to the December 19 proposal. The sum and substance of his long statement regarding that December 19 proposal is that he is not finally agreeing and he has prevaricated the issue simply by saying, "Leave it there because the time does not permit me." My point is he is not sincere; he is not sincere on the development of devolution of power and I feel tempted to quote only one sentence from his interview to the Globe and Mail of Toronto, Canada. On April 4, 1986 he is reported to have observed—I quote: "Canada has solved its ethnic problem by devolution of power. But Sri Lanka can't Becaus all people of "Canada are Canadians". This means all Tamils are not Srilankan. Therefore he does not believe in the theory of solving the ethnic problem by devolution of power.

Lastly, the official policy of the Government with regard to the Srilankan situation has all along remained one of passive adhocism, confusion, inaptness, superficiality and soft options. Time has come when we should have a fresh look over the policies we have so long taken in regard to Srilankan situation. May I know from the hon. Minister if the Government would wake up and look for a little more hard options? Would they consider the desirability of taking some stronger action, including economic sanctions? Thank you

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, even in this critical context, the statement of the hon. Minister is quite disappointing because he has equalised the affected Tamil minority with the Sinhalese majority. Since 1983, this august House has been discussing the problem of Tamils in Sri Lanka. The Tamils are fighting with maximum sacrifices, not against the Sinhalese, but for their birth right. Their language, culture, religion, civilisation, history have been degraded and undermined by successive laws of the Sri Lanka Government. Therefore, they have been compelled to fight for their homeland which is the only solution to live with dignity and self-respect. In stead of finding a political solution to this problem of Tamils, unfortunately the Government of Sri Lanka has deliberately preferred a military solution.

It has been proved beyond reasonable doubt by their deeds and demeanor. Even President Jayewardene has recently stated that he believes only in military solution. If you go through the speeches and utterances of the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and Mr. Athulathmudali and Mr. Hameed, you can see how much violent, revengeful and blood-thirsty they are against the Tamils. After executing inhuman actions and bruta attacks, Prime Minister Premadasa has clearly stated: "If the lives o our people are in danger, we are no prepared to go into the political solution. Any friend who tells us to fin a political solution will be considere as the biggest enemy". So it is ver clear from the words of the Prim Minister of Sri Lanka that they on prefer a military solution. That why our hon'ble Chief Minister, D MGR, has sent a telegram to our ho Prime Minister saying that in spite his sincere efforts, we feel that all a sudden Sri Lanka Government h switched over to military optio instead of aiming at a political so tion. Therefore I would like to a the hon. Minister whether this G

ernment will come forward to undertake the responsibility of protecting the Tamils or not, because it is clear from the deeds, demeanor and utterances and actions of Sri Lanka Government that they are preferring now a military solution only. So is this Government prepared to meet the challenge posed by the Sri Lanka Government against the Tamils? Tell us your decision, tell us your future action.

The policy and diplomacy followed by the Government in the past was not helpful—either to solve the problem or to establish a cease-fire or to stop the killing of Tamils. Instead it was much helpful, rather it has given more opportunity to President Jayewardene to strengthen his position, to mobilise his forces and to get external help from other countries. More than that, Sir, the indecision of the Centre has created the impression in the minds of the Tamils throughout the world that for the sake of the Tamils, whatever may be the military action taken by Sri Lanka, the Government of India will not come forward to take any direct action against the Government of Sri Lanka. Sir, it is not only the opinion of the Tamils but also the opinion of the diplomats. I would like to remind this Hose that Mr. Venkateswaran, or former External Affairs Secretary, has rightly pointed out—I quote:

> "The Centre was not as sensitive to the problem of the Southern States as to those of the Northern heartland. Had any linguistic group of Northern India been persecuted like the Tamils in Sri Lanka, the Centre would have certainly reacted very decisively."

Sir, these are the words of Mr. Venkateswaran. This is the real position of the policy of this Government. If this position is allowed to continue then I have to remind them that the entire Tamil race will be wiped out from the soil of Sri Lanka.

Sir, two months before the Government of India had sent a three-point message to the Government of Sri Lanka. Till now there is no positive response from the Government of Sri Lanka, but the Government has not taken any action for the implementation of the three-point message. Our Prime Minister is leading a movement against the policy of apartheid and colonial rule. So he need not hesitate to take firm action against the apartheid policy of Jayewardene against the Tamils.

Sir, I am pleased to state that the Government of Tamil Nadu has come forward to execute rehabilitation programmes like sending foodstuffs, medicines an clothes to the Tamils in Sri Lanka. It has been opposed by Jayewardene, but it is our birth-right to help our brethren. No power on earth can prevent the Government of Tamil Nadu from extending support on the basis of humanitarian consideration. I thank the Government for defending the action of our Tamil Nadu Government. We are aware that the allocation of Rs. 4 crores is not sufficient to meet the entire requirements. Therefore, I appeal to this Government to give more funds or to create a Sri Lanka Tamil Fund as they have created the Africa Fund. It is reported that Mr. Krishnan has to go to Arab countries as a special envoy of the Prime Minister for raising funds. Similarly, this Government must also come forward to create a Sri Lanka Tamil Fund and send special envoys to other countries to mobilize resources.

So, Sir, there must be a radical change in our policy. Military options must be met successfully only by military defence. Therefore, I would like to ask the Minister—(1) Will this Government come forward to take direct action against the Government of Sri Lanka to protect the rights of the Tamils? (2) Will this Government raise a Sri Lanka Tamil Fund as it has done in the case of Africa?

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, no better statement could be expected from a Government which has gained notoriety for its indecisiveness and impotence. This statement is not worth the paper on which it is printed, Sir. It teaches sermons to those lakhs of people who are suffering and languishing there. On the one side the whole race is being obliterated and genocide is being committed, lakhs of people are languishing in camps in Sri Lanka itself and lakhs of people are there in Tamil Nadu without food and shelter, thousands are there in the European countries, on the other hand you teach them that better sense will prevail ultimately. You say:

> "Any victories through violence will be short-lived and illusory."

Is this the way to teach sermons now? This Government is a spineless Government which has no policy on this matter. Have you got any policy on Sri Lanka? What is that policy? Let us know. What you want to do, step by step, you tell us.

You have clearly said in the statement:

> "... prospects for a negotiated settlement look increasingly less bright."

You have admitted your failure. Now come out and tell what your next step is. You cannot cheat the people like this. How many times should we discuss in this House, express our anger and anguish on what is happening in Sri Lanka?

Even today's paper says:

> "...Sri Lanka is understood to have requested Pakistan to lend the services of its air force pilots for carrying out sorties and to reinforce the current operations against Tamil militants in the Northern and Eastern sectors of the Island."

Your statement does not mention this. So much is happening.

There is a publication brought out by an International Organisation formed in the aid of the Sri Lankan Tamils. It says:

> "The Sri Lankan Government's obsession with security is such that there are no less than five Ministers in charge of security and defence. Fourteen old airfields built by the British during the World War II, have been renovated and reopened, and the existing runways are being extended. Israeli secret service personnel, military advisors and even SAS mercenaries are operating in Sri Lanka. Arms supplies are being imported from various countries including the US, the UK, Pakistan, South Korea, China, South Africa, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, Israel and through private international arms dealers."

While the most cunning diplomat, cunning politician the world has ever seen, Mr. Jayewardene, is negotiating with the Indian Government and talking, he is buttressing his own defence there, increasing the military preparedness there to obliterate the entire Tamilian race in Sri Lanka. Sir, we have to take note of it. You cannot continue to send ambassadors after ambassadors there, some officials, some non-officials, some with credentials, some without credentials. What is Mr. Dinesh Singh's credential to be sent there when so many Ministers are there? Why should he be sent at all? On what basis has he been sent there? This is a very unfair way, the casual manner in which the entire situation [illegible] and the matter is [illegible]. We take serious exception to that.

Sir, the Government of India must come out with what it is going to do in this matter. It has not even the guts to give an ultimatum to the Sri Lankan Government so far. Have you got the guts to give it an ultimatum? We had got so many differences with Mrs. Indira Gandhi when she was alive. She was unpredictable. But at least her unpredictability itself

was a security for the suffering people in the neighbouring countries. They knew she could do something in such circumstances. But today nobody is afraid of this Government. No neighbour is afraid of this Government. So, all these atrocities are committed with immunity. Sir, this Government must come out with a policy declaration, give a deadline that within this time if this genocide is not stopped and a political solution, as anticipated, is not arrived at, India will not be a silent spectator. And if the Government fails, I am warning you, people's voluntary force will march into Sri Lanka from the Southern shores of India.

SHRI K. MOHANAN (Kerala): Mr. Chairman, Sir, concern has been expressed by my esteemed colleague here on what is happening in Sri Lanka. I do share the feelings expressed by him.

AN HON. MEMBER: That side is very silent today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are in agreement with you. He said, "That side is very silent today." I said, "They are in agreement with you."

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sometimes silence is eloquent.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Silence is more eloquent.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: The present development in Sri Lanka is not merely an ethnic problem of Tamilians in Sri Lanka alone. Even though Mr. Jayewardene wants to project this issue as an ethnic problem of the Tamilians alone. Sir, the reality is that the real confrontation is not between the Tamil minority and the Sinhalese majority. But the entire democratic-minded people of Sri Lanka are now in confrontation with the authoritarian Government of Mr Jayewardene. It was evident from the incidents that took place recently, including the one that took place on May 1. That shows that the Jayewardene Government is unleashing attacks and atrocities against not only the Tamilians in Sri Lanka, but also against the democratic-minded Sinsalese of the Island. It was clear from the statement of the former Prime Minister, Mrs. Bhandaranaike. The statement itself was an open chargesheet against Mr. Jayewardene. From the statement of the three-party alliance, especially the statement of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka on how they are approaching this problem, it was clear that a considerable number of even Sinhale majority in Sri Lanka is for a settlement through a peaceful manner and for the protection of the interests of the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka. So, we cannot say that all the Sinhalese are against the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka. Among the Sinhalese, the democratic-minded people, the left party, the Communist party, the workers in that Island, all those who are confronting with Mr. Jayewardene's authoritarian Government, are also for a peaceful solution of this matter and for the protection of the interests of the minority Tamils in that Island. So, this is time to build up unity of the democratic forces in Sri Lanka and not to divide them on the basis of their being Sinhalese or Tamil minorities. Everybody knows that Mr. Jayewardene's intention is to rule the country without the consent of the majority people. He is in a deep political crisis. He wants to wriggle out of that crisis. He is utilising this ethnic issue to come out of the political crisis which he is facing. Everybody knows that the Tamil ethnic problem in Sri Lanka could not be solved without the active support of the Government of India, but the imperialists and the imperialist-backed Mr. Jayewardene want to spoil the efforts of the Government of India. That is why they are spreading all kinds of canards against this country. I would like to say that the Hitlerian ruler, Mr. Jayewardene, does not want a settlement in a peaceful manner, because he wants to utilise the situation to protect himself from a political crisis. So, at this juncture I do not want to provoke anybody and do not want to ask any question from the Government of India, but I urge upon the Government not to be provoked by the provoked statement of a Hitlerian ruler. This is the time to build up the unity of all democratic forces in the Island in order to fight back the Hitlerian ruler Mr. Jayewardene. For that we have to mobilise the world opinion. I do

[Shri K. Mohanan]

hope that the Government of India will do their best in this direction.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta. You have agreed to abide by my time.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Yes, Sir.

I must say the statement of the Government of India is even disappointing to me. I am not one of those who plead for armed intervention. I am not one of those who look at the problem as the problem of the Tamilians only. To me it is a humanitarian problem; to me it is an attack on the working class belonging to the Tamilian race; to me it is an attack to subvert democracy in Ceylon; to me it is an attempt to sell out that country to the American imperialism. The whole problem is being deliberaely escalated to ward off the domestic problem to curtail democracy, to face the challenge of the democratic opposition and to ensure the sell-out of that peninsula to the American imperialism. Therefore, it is a deliberate attempt. But in my opinion, the statement is timid. The statement is disappointing from the Government of India because it fails to see the inherent danger in it. The danger is taking advantage of the deteriorating alarming situation in Sri Lanka. American imperialism is trying to get a foothold in that area. The forces of destabilisation will step up their conspiracy against India. Therefore, take note of the dangerous potential of the situation in that respect. Your statement is spineless. Your statement is stupid. Your statement is timid. You never say how to face the challenge thrown up by Jayawardene. I do not say go in for arms but where is the potential for building up the world opinion? What is the diplomatic offensive? What is the political offensive? How the NAM is going to be activated? How India is going to take the problem on the floor of the United Nations? How India is going to build up in- public opinion? While discard- the proposal of armed inter- tion, while stating categorically that economic sanction is no solution. I plead with the Government of India for active diplomacy instead of passive diplomacy. By active diplomacy I mean the Government of India should do all that is possible not only to protect the lives of the minority people in Sri Lanka but also to ensure that imperialistic forces do not get an opportunity to make their position solid there and Government of India must also ensure that Jayewardene does not get any plea to curb democracy and fight the rising consciousness among the Ceylonese people. We must understand that Sri Lanka does not belong to Jayewardene. There is another Sri Lanka with democratic forces, Sri Lanka of the toiling people, Sri Lanka of the radical Indian people. I feel pride in believing that there is another opinion in Sri Lanka which speaks in the language you speak. Therefore, we must throw our friendship with that part of the Sri Lanka and we should be able to isolate that warmonger, to isolate that American stooge, to isolate that racist, to isolate that man who is practising State terrorism on the soil of Sri Lanka. Therefore, from this point of view, I appeal to the Government of India to show its real spine. You must show your spine in respect of diplomatic offensive, in respect of political offensive, in respect of any offensive that is possible because of the special position India enjoys in the world politics today.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Karnataka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will be very brief indeed. Jayewardene has opted for military solution and military approach. The statement of my friend, Shri Natwar Singh has made it very clear on this point. Sir, the military approach, the military solution divided Pakistan. We had been a witness to this division of Pakistan in 1971. I hope and trust the same thing may not happen to Sri Lanka. Jayewardene seems to have lost perspective and seems to have lost even sense of judgement. I do not want to go into all the things said by my friends which have been said in the past. My friend, Mr Natwar Singh has only expressed hope in the end of his statement to meet this milita- approach of Sri Lanka Government, He hope against hope and plea- d political settlement. ted political settlement has come to an end, has failed. I do not

think the negotiations through peaceful means have yielded any results. Peaceful diplomacy through mediation has failed and he has confessed, as I said, Jayewardene has opted for military solution. Then, what is the answer? I would like him to tell the answer. It is not for me to suggest any approach, any solution to this matter. We had suggested in the past. I would like the Government of India to answer this simple question. When the Minister has conceded that Jayewardene has adopted deliberately a policy of militarism against Tamils in Sri Lanka, what is the answer, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. V. Narayanasamy, very short speech. May I have your permission to continue this debate for a few more minutes and conclude?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: All right, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the happenings in Sri Lanka for the past three months are heart-rending. The people who are living in Jaffna region and Trincomalee district have been massacred, killed and shot dead by the military forces in a planned way. First an aerial survey is made by helicopters and then Artillery is bombing the cities wherein civilians are living. Sir, the Indian Government through its mediatory efforts have sent several delegations and several proposals have been put-forth by the Indian Government. But the Jayewardene Government is only for military solution and not for political solution as suggested by the Indian Government. The opinion in Sri Lanka and in the Ministry is divided about the actions taken by Jayewardene Government with regard to solving the problem of Tamils in Sri Lanka. I would like to say that the Defence Minister, Mr Anthulathmudali has said that the military option is only source left open. But the Finance Minister Ronnie Demel has said that Sri Lankan Tamils problem is a socio-economic problem and it can be solved only by the political settlement. He has also said that the economy of Sri Lanka is losing by more than Rs. 400,000 [redacted] year because of the ethnic crisis. I would like to submit even Shrimati Bhandarenaike has said categorically about three days back that the India's good offices alone will prevail upon the Jayewardene Government to come to a political settlement.

Our hon. Prime Minister while addressing a public meeting at Salem has categorically stated as to what steps the Government of India has taken to solve the issue. In 1984 the ethnic crisis has started and Tamil people have been killed. Jayewardene Government did not agree for any solution and they did not agree to have a talk with the militant groups. But now a solution which has been proposed by the Indian Government on December 19 has been accepted by the Jayewardene Government and pressure was mounted upon him by the Ministry there. So he retracted from it. In the last para of the hon. Minister's statement it is stated that the Indian Government is prevailing upon both the parties to come to a negotiated settlement. In this connection may I know from the Minister what short term measures the Government of India has taken for stopping killings of Sri Lankan Tamils? I would also like to know if the Government of India mediatory efforts have failed. In that event what alternative steps the Government of India propose to take? Thank you.

1.00 P.M.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Minister.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your names did not come before the time...

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR (Bihar): I wanted to support my friend...

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, your name also will be associated with it. Say Mr. Ashwani Kumar has also supported this.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE (Maharashtra): You may record the same thing for me also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, your name also will be associated. I will record that the whole House has supported it. Mr. Minister, you may start your reply.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Mr. Chairman, I have listened with great interest the honourable Members, Shri Gopalsamy, Shri Chitta Basu, Shri Aladi Aruna, Shri Upendra, Shri Gurudas Das Gupta, Shri Gurupadaswamy, Shri Narayanasamy, all distinguished Members of the House. First of all I would like to say that we are faced in Sri Lanka with a very serious, very grave, very tragic, very complex, situation. For a large country of 780 million people it is very essential that we act with the maximum of restraint and responsibility; otherwise, only the other day in the other House it was said India was acting as a big brother of its neighbours. We are not. We have to be aware of the sensitivities of a very small neighbour. We have to be aware of the ramifications of internationalising this particular question. Honourable Members have suggested that it should be taken up at various international organisations. If you look at the past history of matters being taken to international organisations, you will find that you will get bogged down in group rivalries, regional rivalries, power politics, and no particular solution will be found. It is, therefore, essential that we contain this as best as we can and we have not offered our services to Sri Lanka Government and the Tamil groups which said that India should offer its good offices ...*(Interruption by Shri V. Gopalsamy)*. I am coming to that, Mr. Gopalsamy. First of all, indignation is no substitute for policy. You have said harsh words have been used in the statement that I had made, that it is spineless, it is stupid

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I said harsh words have been used by Jayawardene.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: I have listened to you with great respect. Will you allow me to reply? We are dealing here with a very serious problem and by raising one's voice one is not going to solve this problem. On the contrary,... *(Interruption by Shri V. Gopalsamy)* Do you have any proposal?

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Yes.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Do you suggest that India should march into Sri Lanka?...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: If you are really concerned to protect the lives of Tamils, you should march, you should supply arms to the people. That is our demand.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gopalsamy, you had your say. Now please listen to him.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: We are trying to deal here with an extremely delicate and serious matter and to suggest that India should go to war with Sri Lanka, to me it is the height of irresponsibilty...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I have demanded it with all the responsibility as a Member of Parliament. This is the concern of the Tamils.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you are going to comment on every sentence of his, then there will be no end to it. Mr. Gopalsamy. Please don't interrupt.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: ***

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gopalsamy's remarks will not go on record.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Sir, I am not going to be provoked by what the honourable Member says. I may place before the House the intricacies and the complications of this problem...

SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN (Tamil Nadu): You have not even moved. Where is the question of your being provoked?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Government of India is in daily touch with the Government of Tamil Nadu. The Prime Minister is in touch with the Chief Minister. I have seen the Chief Minister. Mr. Chidambaram has seen the Chief Minister. We are in daily touch with him. And, Sir, the honourable leader of the party here, Shri Aladi Aruna, should know that we are in touch with them constantly every single day... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (Tamil Nadu): The people are being killed in Jaffna and what is the point of your being in touch with them? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can you interrupt the Minister all the time? Please

***Not recorded.

do not interrupt him. You have had your say. Nobody should disturb the Minister.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: I am trying to explain to you the complexity. I know how you feel and I know how we feel The Government discusses it everyday, the Cabinet discusses it everyday. We have taken it to the Political Affairs Committee of the Cabinet and the Ministry is aware of it. We have a High Commissioner who reports to us every single day. You think you are better informed, more informed than we are? You know, the matter was discussed in the Human Rights Commission and it took up the matter and passed a resolution. But the fact of the matter is that here are certain constraints and it is all very well to say, in the heat of the moment, "You should do this, you should do that, you should march in there" and so on. Do you see the consequences?

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Not in the heat of the moment. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please allow the Minister to have his say, Mr. Gopalsamy? You had your say and he did not disturb you. No interruptions, please.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: The approach that I am giving you is the considered approach of the Government of India. We have said in our statement that we condemn the actions of the Sri Lankan Government with regard to the violence, with regard to the killings, with regard to the strafing and with regard to the air bombings. I have said this in my statement. We have said this to our High Commissioner and we have told their High Commissioner in India. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: What is the remedy? *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interruptions, please. I will not allow any interruptions. No interruption should be recorded.

SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: After three years what is the result, Sir? *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You know the rules of debate. You have had your say. Now let the Minister have his say. You cannot interrupt him all the time, word for word. Yes, Mr. Minister.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: What I am trying to say is that all the honourable Members have said what they wanted to say and they have had their say and not a single proposal has been given as to what we in the Government of India should do. We have told you that this is an extremely complex situation. *(Interruptions)* Is it your suggestion that we should make a military conflict in the region? Then it has grave consequences. Please look at the map of the world and see what is happening around. If you want to contain this and if you want a conflagration in these areas of the globe for this we are not going to be a party to it and I must say that you are not really taking into account the realities of the world and are not looking into the past history of the world. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interruptions to be recorded.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: I am not yielding, Sir ... *(Interruptions)* I am not yielding to the honourable Members. *(Interruptions)* You think you can brow-beat me? *(Interruptions)* Sir, we have been in constant touch...

SHRI P. BABUL REDDY: (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, if the honourable Minister addresses the Chair, the interruptions will come down.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Sir, we have been in touch with the Tamil groups.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are cautioned to address the Chair.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: I will address you, Sir. Sir, we have been in touch with the Tamil militants. As for the intemperate remarks that have been made by the distinguished Prime Minister and the distinguished President of Sri Lanka we have called their High Commissioner and told him that it is really unworthy.

[Shri K. Natwar Singh]

I do not want to touch on anything else now. The remark made by the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka that anybody who asks for a political solution of this problem is an enemy is really an astonishing thing to say and the people holding responsible positions in Government should at least have the wisdom to use their words carefully because language is the vehicle that we have for expressing our views and you cannot use it for abusing... (*Interruptions*) Now, please listen. If a country of 780 million people cannot look at this problem in a mature and measured way, then I can only say that it would be a sad day. Otherwise, how do you suggest this? One of the honourable Member has commented on the remarks made by my dear friend, the former Foreign Secretary that if this problem had been in the North, there would have been a greater reaction. I do not know whether he really said this or not—and I can only express very very deep regret... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: That is correct. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please. No interruptions, please. No disturbance, no obstruction.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, even the Prime Minister yielded to the Opposition when we sought clarifications. Why Mr. Natwar Singh is so nervous? Is it because he handled the issue?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: I can assure the hon. Member that I have not been nervous in the presence of head of State and Government of unfriendly countries. So, you are not likely to make me nervous. Forget about it. What I am trying to say is that...

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: You were telling something about Mr. Venkateshwaran.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: We are looking at this point of view not from any region of India. We are looking at it as the Government of India and the people of India and any suggestion that is being made that we have to regionalise this or sectionalise this, to my mind, is unfortunate and very sad indeed because we are dealing with it as the Government of India and the Government which is most concerned with it because of the proximity of it, we are in constant touch with the Government of Tamil Nadu. The Government of Tamil Nadu has not made the suggestion that has been made in this House here. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has nowhere said what the hon. Members have said that we should take military action. I have met Mr. M. G. Ramachandran many times. The Prime Minister has met him. What I am to suggest is we will go on doing our best. After all, Sri Lanka is a sovereign Government. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: What is your best, we want to know? Please enlighten us.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: I am trying to enlighten as much as I can but you are popping up every few minutes. In stead of reflecting on it, instead of having some introspection about it, you are all the time trying to find fault because you want to make the headline tomorrow but I don't I am trying to find a solution. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I do not like it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: He should not make that comment. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: This is the attitude of the Government. This is the attitude of the people in the North. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Allow the Chair to say, I think it is an unfortunate statement. He didn't mean it. The Minister did not mean it.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Let him say that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Alright, Mr. Natwar Singh, you generously say I did not mean it. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Sir, if I have said anything unparliamentary. I am very sorry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has said he is sorry.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: If I have offended your feeling, I am sorry. I did not mean that. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: You must understand the difficulty of the Minister. He is after all with you in spirit. He has to maintain certain position as a Government and therefore he is putting forward. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: **

MR. CHAIRMAN: I donot allow that statement to go on record. You must understand the difficulty of the Minister. He is trying to do his best.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Sir, what I have said in my statement and what Mr. Gurupadaswamy and Mr. Mohanan had said is that we must strengthen those forces in Sri Lanka which will clam the tempers there, which would enable the people to get together but the attitude taken by the Government of Sri Lanka for the past several months has been so unfortunate it has been so unhelpful that it has led to the stage where there is a state of civil war in a small island with which we had historic relations going back to many centries. Now when Mr. Chidambaram and I went on the 19th of December, we worked out proposals with the President of Sri Lanka. We thought that these proposals went for enough and we promissed to take them to the Tamil Groups. Now, within 24 hours, Mr. Jayewardene had some reservations and since then the situation deteriorated. We have had contacts with them. We asked them: please undo your blockade of Jaffna, reduce your military activities so that the Tamil groups can at least look at the proposals and come to the conference table. We said, "all right, unless you stop your military activity we will not resume our good offices", but since the situation became very grave, the Prime Minister sent Mr. Dinesh Singh with a special meassage and we got certain assurances from Mr. Jayewardene. Those assurances have not been kept. Now what more can I say if a Government does not keep the assurances it gives? Then it places us in a very, very difficult situation. And this is what I am trying to submit to the House that if a Head of Government or a Head of State agrees to certain proposals and then in his own wisdom goes back on it....

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: So many times.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Constantly it is happening. And the result is that military activity is mounted up and the statements and the pronouncements are made. Then you have referred that Pakistan has given some assurances. We have also read in the papers. It is only going to make the situation much worse. And we are only saying that if the Sri Lankan Government is interested in a....

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on a point of clarification. He said something about Pakistan that he read only in the newspapers. I want to know whether the Government is aware that already Pakistan pilots have trained the pilots of Sri Lanka for the military operation. I want to know whether you are aware of that or not.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: We are aware of it, Sir. About this particular news item this morning which you are referring to that they have made some new announcement, it is not going to improve the situation. already Israel, Pakistan, the Kinni Minni Services of the U.K., and certain American presence there are only going to make the situation much worse. I had discussed it with the President myself, the Prime Minister discussed it that in this situation "if you are going to get outside powers in it, it is going to make it much worse; now we happen to be near you, we are your friends, we have Tamils living

**Not recorded.

[Shri K. Natwar Singh]

there for the last so many centuries who have such close links with us. And since you think that we are in a position to offer our good offices, we are offering them to you. Please listen to what we are trying to say. We have no ulterior motive for Sri Lanka. We only wish you well. We want amity, peace and goodwill to prevail in Sri Lanka." This is what we have been trying to tell, but the response all the time has been, 'no'. I mean, to call us a Hitlerite, to call us enemies of Sri Lanka is beyond comprehension, as far as I can understand. How does it help the situation? Now, Sir, the statement has been drafted very carefully. Now the hon. Members might say that it is not aggressive enough, it is not strong enough. But you know what more it could be. We are trying to be helpful in a difficult situation. We are trying to find a solution in the circumstances. (*Interruptions*) What this statement says is that the actions that you are taking are not improving the situation. We do not think a military solution that the Sri Lankan Government is contemplating is going to help. As Mr. Gurupadaswamy said, the consequences in Sri Lanka would be extremely grave. And if that military activity was to be expanded further by our doing something, then this whole region gets involved into a geopolitical situation which he would like to avoid. So, we shall go and try as best as we can because diplomacy is a long term business. It does not produce any instant results. It may not be dramatic. But this is the only means that is available to sovereign Governments to talk to each other, short of other means which are not peaceful. That is what we are trying to do, and this is where I crave the indulgence of the hon. Members whose feelings I appreciate, whose anguish I appreciate and we share and the Government shares. But this is a serious problem. This is a complex problem. It has international ramifications. And it is our duty and responsibility to see that we look upon it, in spite of all the provocations from the Government of Sri Lanka, in the way that we think is in the best interest of our Tamil brothers and sisters there, and find out a solution. And that is the burden of the statement that I have made, Sir. It is equally easy for me and for the Government to use harsh language. The vocabulary for abuses is available to me also. But I am not resorting to it because that will not help. That is why I appeal to the hon. Members that we would look at this in this particular manner which is to look at it in a clam measured way and have our responses. How difficult it is, I know how it will be in Tamil Nadu. I have been there several times. I have Tamil friends; I had them all my life. I know the hon. Members; we meet outside and discuss with each other. I have discussed it with other Members of the House. It is an extremely delicate extremely complex and extremely sensitive issue, and the highest skills of diplomacy, patience goodwill and understanding are needed.

Now, it does not answer your problem as to what is the solution. There is no easy solution. There are problems in life for which there are easy solutions; there are problems for which there are difficult solutions and there are problems for which there are no solutions. I hope we have not reached a stage where there is no solution. I hope there is a solution a peaceful solution in which goodwill, friendship, understanding and cooperation will prevail. That is what the Government of India is trying to do. That is why we have not done anything to raise the temperature. It would be very easy for the Government of India to speak in strident tone but it would not help. That is why, the statement that we have made....

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I asked a specific question...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has answered it.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I asked about the Operation Knockout, whether the Gov-

ernment is aware of the scheme of Sri Lankan Government to annihilate Tamils.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: We have not come across code name Operation Knockout and we have just checked it with the department which is looking to these things. If the hon. Member has any information, I will be grateful if he could share it with us and we will find out about it.

In conclusion, I want to thank the hon. Members for taking up this matter because I think it is important for us to address the Government....

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: This diplomacy of negotiating will not help.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Through this House we have to convey the depth of feelings of this country to the Government of Sri Lanka and we shall keep on trying. Now, the Sri Lanka Government has said that they do not want our good offices.

How do we go and thrust our good offices on them?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Jaffna people have requested for ships to take them back to India. They want to come to India. They want to be helped by India. They are asking for ships. Are you going to sent ships or would allow them to get killed there?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: All these questions and problems are before the Government. There should not be an assumption that we are not aware of it. But you are dealing with a sovereign government. There are some international laws; there are certain regulations; there are certain procedures. You cannot send your ships without the cooperation of the Government of Sri Lanka. You have to sit down and talk with them, or decide that you take naval action. We have to put across these major questions. All these matters are before the Government. We are looking at them and we are trying our best....

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Will you allow them to kill more Tamils in Sri Lanka?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Government is fully aware of it, fully conscious of it. We have a High Commissioner's report daily on what is happening there. We are in touch with the Government that is concerned nearest, that is Tamil Nadu Government here. We are looking at all the information that is made available to us everyday, which is not comfortable. This information gives us more cause of concern and worry. But as a responsible Government we have to look at it and we try to do our best to see that things do not take a turn for the worse. I do not want to use the harsh words because that would not help. What I am saying is that we have not been encouraged at all by the attitude of the authorities and the Government there in recent weeks in a situation which by their actions they are aggravating and they are making the lives of the citizens of Sri Lanka who are Tamils, a painful existence, which this House condemns, this country condemns and the Human Rights agencies are condemning, and we are trying our best.

The House has debated this, and I am certain, what the Members have said and what I have said, will be read by the Government of Sri Lanka and I hope they will draw right conclusions on it.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: The Minister has categorically stated in his statement that the prospects for a negotiated settlement are increasingly less bright. He has admitted it, and he has not given any alternative. If there is no negotiated settlement, what will they do?

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a hypothetical question. How can he say now what they will do?

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Sir, just one minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Sir, just one thing. Government has not even done the minimum thing which it is doing in other cases. For example, in the case of apartheid, two Parliamentary delegations are being sent. But in this

[Shri Parvathaneni Upendra]

case, Government has not even tried to mobilise public opinion, world opinion. They have not raised it in the international fora....

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is now adjourned and we will meet again at 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at twenty-six minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-three minutes past two of the clock, the Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

RESOLUTION RE NEW SUGAR POLICY—Contd.

श्री नरेश सी० पुगलिया (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभापति महोदया, 24 अप्रैल, की राष्ट्रीय चीनी नीति के विषय में एक महत्वपूर्ण चर्चा प्राइवेट मेम्बर्स बिजनेस के माध्यम से श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा जी ने उपस्थित की थी और उस दिन समय पूरा हो जाने के कारण मुझे अधूरी चर्चा समाप्त करनी पड़ी थी । आज आपने मुझे दुबारा बोलने का मौका दिया इसलिए मैं आपका आभारी हूं। मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि राष्ट्रीय चीनी नीति के विषय में हमारे भारतवर्ष में हमने जिस प्रकार से हर क्षेत्र में तरक्की की है और खास करके खाद्यान्न के मामले में, अनाज के बारे में, हम परिपूर्ण हैं, लेकिन आज भी हमारे देश में चीनी, दालों और तेल की कमी है और इनमें से हमें चीनी और इडिबल आयल आज भी इम्पोर्ट करना पड़ता है । इसके लिए हमें भारी मात्रा में फारेन एक्सचेंज देना पड़ता है । मैं नेशनल शगर पालिसी के बारे में यह कहना चाहूंगा कि इसमें जो बदल किया गया है, यह बदल हमारे किसानों के हित में नहीं है, देश के हित में नहीं है । मेडम, आप भी महाराष्ट्र के उस क्षेत्र से आती हैं जहां पर शुगर इंडस्ट्रीज बहुत हैं । हमारे देश में महाराष्ट्र एक ऐसा राज्य है जहां पर 34 परसेन्ट अकेले शुगर का उत्पादन होता है । इस देश में 34 परसेन्ट चीनी का उत्पादन अकेले महाराष्ट्र प्रदेश करता है । लेकिन आज महाराष्ट्र की 56 कोआपरेटिव फैक्टरीज के प्रोपोजल्स केन्द्रीय सरकार के पास पेंडिंग हैं । जो नयी नीति बनी है उस नयी नीति के कारण हमारे सभी प्रपोजल्स तकलीफ में आ गये हैं । किसान भाइयों ने बड़ी तकलीफ के साथ एक करोड़ रुपया शेयर कैपिटल जमा किया है लेकिन आपकी नयी नीति के कारण यह शेयर कैपिटल 10 करोड़ से 20 करोड़ रुपया कर दिया गया है । इसके अलावा इसमें है कि आपका जो एरिया है वहां शुगर फैक्टरी के पहले वहां एक लाख टन गन्ना होता था इसका सर्टिफिकेट लाइये । मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं कि जहां इस प्रकार की इंडस्ट्री आती हैं, इस प्रकार की शुगर फैक्टरी आती हैं, उसके आने से दो साल पहले किसान गन्ना लगाते हैं । लेकिन जहां शुगर फैक्टरी का पता ही नहीं है वहां एक लाख टन गन्ने के होने का सर्टिफिकेट मांगना यह गलत नीति है और इसके कारण कोआपरेटिव सेक्टर में और खासकर हिन्दुस्तान के दो प्रांत, महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात जिन्होंने चीनी के मामले में काफी तरक्की है इनके संबंध में मैं कुछ आंकड़े आपके सामने देना चाहता हूं। इंडियन शुगर मिल एसोसिएशन ने जो जानकारी दी है उसके अनुसार इस देश में 1983–84 में शुगर का उत्पादन 50 लाख टन था जो 1984–85 में बढ़कर 61.43 लाख टन हुआ है और 1985-86 में वह और बढ़ कर 70.30 लाख टन हुआ, जब कि हमारी शुगर की खपत 1984–85 में 80.92 लाख टन थी, जो 1985–86 में बढ़कर 82.33 टन हो गई । इस प्रकार से 1985–86 में हमें करीब 13 लाख टन शुगर का आयात करना पड़ा और 1984–85 में करीब 20 लाख टन हमको बाहर से मंगानी पड़ी और इसे हमने एफ० सी० आई० के माध्यम से मंगाया । सरकार ने इस कमी को पूरा करने के लिये ज्यादा से ज्यादा पैमाने पर एफ० सी० आई० के माध्यम से शुगर इम्पोर्ट की । एक तरफ हमारी सरकार फारेन एक्सचेंज बचाना चाहती है और दूसरी तरफ चीनी का इम्पोर्ट करती है । अगर हमें अपनी फारेन